



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 20, 2004

H.R. 3247 **Trail Responsibility and Accountability for the** **Improvement of Lands Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 2004

H.R. 3247 would amend existing laws that govern the protection of federal lands to provide land-management agencies with consistent enforcement authorities. The bill would standardize penalty amounts, sentences, and other terms for certain misdemeanor violations established under regulation by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Finally, the bill would authorize the four agencies to spend collections of fines and penalties without further appropriation for resource rehabilitation, legal expenses, public education, and other activities be related to the misdemeanors.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3247 would have no significant net impact on the federal budget. Implementing the penalties established by the bill could increase or decrease revenues from fines and penalties, but CBO expects that any net change would be less than \$500,000 annually. Allowing the land-management agencies to spend fines and penalties collected under federal regulations would have no impact on federal spending because such amounts are already spent without further appropriation from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, which currently receives all such revenues.

H.R. 3247 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.